

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MEXICO 07522 230146Z

15

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 EB-07 AID-05 IGA-01 COME-00 TRSY-06 OMB-01

/097 W

----- 041219

R 222359Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9586

UNCLAS MEXICO 7522

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFR CU US

SUBJECT: CASTRO COMMENTS ON U.S. LIFTING OF THIRD COUNTRY
SANCTIONS AND OTHER SUBJECTS

1. SUMMARY: IN A PRESS CONFERENCE IN HAVANA ON AUG 21, PRIME
MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO CALLED THE US LIFTING OF THIRD
COUNTRY SANCTIONS "A POSITIVE STEP". CASTRO SAID THAT CUBA
IS READY FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE US, BUT WILL NOT NEGOTIATE
"WITH A DAGGER AT ITS BREAST". IN HIS SUBSEQUENT REMARKS,
CASTRO MADE CLEAR THAT THE "DAGGER" HE REFERRED TO IS THE
USG IMPOSED EMBARGO ON DIRECT TRADE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
AND CUBA. END SUMMARY.

2. ON AUGUST 22, THE MEXICAN PRESS PUBLISHED LENGTHLY QUOTATIONS
FROM CASTRO'S JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE IN HAVANA THE PREVIOUS
DAY WITH VISITING MEXICAN PRESIDENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA (VISIT
SUBJECT OF SEPTEL). CASTRO, WHO WAS WELL INFORMED ABOUT AND
ABLE TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL THE RECENT USG LIFTING OF SANCTIONS,
MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON THIS MOVE: "I SINCERELY
BELIEVE THAT THESE ARE POSITIVE STEPS. WE RECEIVED THESE
MEASURES WITH SATISFACTION. NEVERTHELESS, THE ESSENCE OF THE
ECONOMIC BLOCKADE CONTINUES; THAT IS, THE PROHIBITION OF ALL
COMMERCE BETWEEN CUBA AND THE U.S. ...

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MEXICO 07522 230146Z

WE SINCERELY DESIRE THAT THE BLOCKADE BE LIFTED IN ITS

ESSENCE; WE ARE NOT DEMANDING THAT THE UNITED STATES GIVE US A SUGAR QUOTA OR GIVE US CREDITS OR EVEN MAINTAIN THE RELATIONS (WITH US) IT MAINTAINS WITH OTHER OCUNTRIES. BUT THE PROHIBITION OF COMMERCE WITH CUBA IS STILL A VERY UNLAWFUL MEASURE AND VERY SERIOUS FOR THE CUBAN ECONOMY."

3. IN ADDITION ACASTRO STATED THAT THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT IS "READY TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES WITH COMPLETE SERIOUSNESS AND WITH COMPLETE SINCERITY AND RESPONSIBILITY", BUT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO HOLD SUCH DISCUSSIONS "WITH A DAGGER AT ITS BREAST".A SHORT TIME LATER IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE, CASTRO EXPLAINED WHAT HE MEANT BY A DAGGER: "WE FEEL THAT THE PROHIBITION OF TRADE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA SHOULD BE ENDED. IT IS NOT EASY TO NEGOTIATE WHEN ONE HAS A DAGGER AT ONE'S BREAST." THE BUAN LEADER ADDED THAT ANY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN HIS COUNTRY AND THE US SHOULD COVER A WIDE RANGE OF PROBLEMS INCLUDING NOT ONLY US CLAIMS FOR INDEMNIFICATION AGAINST CUBA, BUT ALSO CUBAN CLAIMS FOR INDEMNIFICATION AGAINST THE US AS A RESULT OF 15 YEAR BLOCKADE AS WELL AS OTHER PROBLEMS SUCHAS GUANTANAMO.

4. IN RESPONSE TO A REPORTER'S QUESTION ABOUT WHEN CUBA HAD STOPPED EXPORTING REVOLUTION, CASTRO REPLIED THAT THEY HAD NOT STOPPED BECAUSE THEY HAD NEVER STARTED DOING SO. CUBA, HE EXPLAINED HAS "A PROFOUND CONVICTIONTHAT REVOLUTION CANNOT BE EXPORTED." CASTRO NOTED THAT "THERE IS A CONFUSION BETWEEN THE PRINCIPLE OF SOLIDARITY AND THE MATTER OF EXPORTING EVOLUTION".

5. TURNING TO THE ATTACK, CASTRO CHARGED THAT "THE UNITED STATES HAD MADE CONSIDERABLE REFFORTS TO EXPORT COUNT E
-
REVOLUTION TO CUBA AND FAILED." EH ASSERTED THAT THE U.S. DID THIS IN "A INFAMOUS AND DISGRACEFUL ALLIANCE WITH ALL THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA" EXCEPT MEXICO. HE POINTED OUT THAT PRIOR TO THE OAS SANCTIONS, THE US HAD UNILATERALLY ESTABLISHED A BLOCKADE AGAINST CUBA AND THAT "AS ALWAYS THE OAS SANCTIFIED THE MEASURES OF THE UNITED STATEK." HE WENT ON TO CHARGE THAT THE SAME THING HAPPENED IN THE CASE OF US
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MEXICO 07522 230146Z

INTERVENTION INSANTO DOMINGO. IN ADDITION HE CITED CHILE AS ANOTHER CASE WHERE THE UNITED STATES HAD "EXPORTED COUNTERREVOLUTION"

6. ADDITIONALLY, CASTRO DESCRIBED WATH HE CALLED "A LATIN AMERICAN BLOCKADE AGAINST THE UNITED STATES" AS FOLLOWS: "IT'S A BLOCKADE IN THE CONSCIENCE OF THE RURAL WORKERS, OF THE LABORERS OF THE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS (AND) OF TME NEW

GENERATIONS. IT'S A PSYCMOLOGICAL (AND) A MORAL BLOCKADE WHICH THE UNITED STATES CANNOT DILUTE SIGNIFICANTLY WITHOUT RADICALLY CHANGING ITS POLICY TOWARD ALL LATIN AMERICA".

(NOTE: SOME NEWSPAPERS ATTRIBUTED AN ALMOST IDENTICAL STATEMENT TO MEXICAN PRESIDENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA, BUT IT IS NOT IN-

CLUDED IN EITHER SUMMARY OR TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE PUBLISHED BY SEMI-OFFICIAL EL NACIONAL.)

7. WHEN ASKED WHETHER SOCIALISM COULD BE ESTABLISHED PEACEFULLY, CASTRO RESPONDED: "I FEEL THAT REVOLUTIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE PRODUCED IN THE WORLD IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER. I WOULD NOT DARE TO SAY THAT THERE COULD NOT BE PEACEFUL CHANGE IN ANY COUNTRY. VERY STRONG POPULAR MOVEMENTS HAVE RISEN IN LATIN AMERICA... WHICH CAN CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR A PEACEFUL TRANSITION. I WOULD NOT WANT TO ASSERT, IN ANY MANNER, NOR ESTABLISH AS A DOGMA THAT PEACEFUL TRANSITION IS IMPOSSIBLE. UP TO NOW IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE, BUT I BELIEVE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE IN MANKIND'S FUTURE DESPITE OUR OWN EXPERIENCES".

8. CASTRO WARMLY PRAISED VISITING MEXICAN PRESIDENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA, AS "A DISTRINGUISHED STATESMAN OF THE WORLD", AS "THE GUIDING FORCE" BEHIND THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES, SELA, AND NAMUCAR, AND "AS A STATESMAN WHO LIFTED HIS VOICE THROUGHOUT ALL LATIN AMERICAN IN CONDEMNATION COMMENDATION OF THE BLOCKADE AGAINST CUBA."
JOVA

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, SANCTIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MEXICO07522
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750292-0399
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750827/aaaaaxld.tel
Line Count: 143
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 FEB 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <15 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CASTRO COMMENTS ON U.S. LIFTING OF THIRD COUNTRY SANCTIONS AND OTHER SUBJECTS
TAGS: PFOR, CU, US, (CASTRO RUZ, FIDEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006